

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Application No. 10/527,816
Attorney Docket No. 043207

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached replacement sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1, 6, 8 and 9. The amended Figs. 1 and 6 have been labeled 1A and 1B, and 6A and 6B, respectively. Further, Fig. 6B has been amended to include reference Nos. 72 & 73. Figs. 8 and 9 have been amended to include the legend "Prior Art."

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REMARKS

Claims 3-5 and 8-12 are currently pending. Claims 1-2 and 6-7 have been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3 and 5 have been amended herein to include the base limitations of original claim 1.

Applicants' Response to the Objection to the Drawings

The Office has objected to Figs. 8 & 9 as requiring a designation by a legend such as -- Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. In response thereto, applicants have added the "Prior Art" designation in corrected Figures herein.

Figures 1 and 6 are objected to for illustrating multiple views with only one view number. In response thereto, applicants have amended Figs. 1 and 6 herein to include designations of the figures as 1A and 1B, and 6A and 6B, respectively.

Further, in regard to Figure 6, the Office maintains that D2 and D1 are identifying the same radius of the convex portion. In response thereto, applicants respectfully submit that D2 is a radius along the inner periphery portion 50. Per page 10, lines 19-31. D1 is a radius along the upset inner peripheral portion 71. Per page 11, lines 2-10. Wherefore, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Office has objected to the tapered holes disclosed at page 11, lines 13-15 for not being referred to in the drawings by a reference number. In response thereto, applicants have herein amended Fig. 6 and the specification to incorporate the reference number 72 which represents the boundary between the upset inner periphery portion 71 and the faying inner

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periphery portion 50, and reference number 73 which represents the boundary between the upset inner periphery portion 71 and the one edge face 7A of the large-diameter attachment part 2 in the amended Fig. 6B.

The Office has objected to the drawings for failing to illustrate the limitation of Claims 7 and 10 of a tapered cylindrical form at the bellows end of the large diameter attachment part. Applicants respectfully submit that the tapered cylindrical form at one end of the large-diameter attachment part on the side of the bellows part is illustrated in Fig. 1B, as reference number 61 and is referred to in the specification at page 14, lines 6-10. Wherefore, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants' Response to the Objections to the Specification

In response to the objections to the specification and the drawings, applicants have herein submitted a substitute specification pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.125(b). A substitute specification with markings to show changes is attached hereto as well as a clean version. Applicants do hereby state that the substitute specification includes no new matter.

The Office has objected to the specification on the basis that the summary at page 3, lines 18+ and page 5, lines 19+ is improper because it is not in narrative form. The Office maintains that this section employs the legalistic form used in claims. Applicants respectfully submit that although the descriptions are similar to those of the claims, the description is still in proper form to be incorporated within the specification. Specifically, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.71(a) the description provided is of the manner and process of making and using the invention, and is full,

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clear, concise and exact in terms so as to enable any person skilled in the art to make and use the invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the description provided is proper despite having a correlation to the claims. Wherefore, favourable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Office has objected to the placement of the Brief Description of the Drawings section within the specification. In response thereto applicants have herein amended the specification to place the Brief Description of the Drawings to precede the detailed description of the invention, which begins on page 9.

The Office has objected to the incorporation of non-patent publication at page 9, lines 31-32 which refer to JIS standards. This objection is related to the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112 discussed below. As noted below, applicants have cancelled claim 13 herein. Wherefore, applicants respectfully submit that the objection is now moot.

Applicants' Response to the Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. As noted above, applicants have cancelled claim 13 herein. Wherefore, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot.

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Applicants' Response to the Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1, 2, 6 & 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wolf et al, US 2004/0056434. As noted above, applicants have cancelled claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 herein. Wherefore, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot.


In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Substitute specification (w/ markings to show changes)
Substitute specification (clean version)
Revised Figures 1A-1B, 6A-6B, 8 & 9